

WILL THEY FIGHT?

The Tactics of the English Ministry Tend to Alarm Many, Amuse a Few and Puzzle All.

The Irish Agents Have Already Approached the Russian Embassy With Proffers of Aid.

The Question of Peace or War Left for Russia to Decide—England Cannot Recede.

Russia is Massing an Army of Fifty Thousand Men on the Caspian Sea and Increasing Her Navy.

OUR CABLE LETTERS.

The War Has Fetered Out.

LONDON, March 28.—There is a marked lull in the war scare. In fact, among the very sober minded, there is no war scare at all. Some of the most fiery jingoes even are beginning to ask themselves what grounds they have had for all the alarm of the past week. The first announcement of the queen's calling out the army reserve and the militia almost created a panic. It aroused the national pugnacity thoroughly. It made every fighting Englishman ready to fight right away. Their pugnacity is still up, but there is a growing belief that it is up for nothing. Their blood-thirst is being slaked with

THE COLDEST KIND OF WATER.

After putting everybody in a fever heat of excitement by springing without notice the call for the reserves, the ministry are now apparently attempting to minimize the import of her majesty's message by delaying to state what number of the militia and reserves will be accepted and put under arms. Every effort has been made to draw the government out on this point, but so far without success. But the ministers have allowed reports to be circulated to the effect that no more than 25,000 men are wanted. These reports have come from such good authority and have been so persistently circulated that it is now generally believed that so far, to use an American expression,

"THE THING HAS PETERED OUT."

Twenty-five thousand men are just about enough to fill the vacancies in the muster rolls caused by the recent drafts for Egyptian and the Mediterranean stations. Some people think there never was any danger of an actual conflict with Russia, and that the government was only trying to obtain glory and credit with the people for having intimidated Russia by an act which was admitted to be enormously magnified in the popular conception, but which was really a matter of course and practically insignificant. Premier Gladstone has replied to the most pressing requests for information as to the true import of the queen's summons by saying: "The government has decided to postpone all statements upon that subject until after Easter." This reply was accompanied by a statement that the government hoped they would be able during the interval to reach some arrangement with Russia. Taken either as statesmanship or humbug, the premier's evasion must be considered.

A CLEVER PIECE OF WORK of its kind. Lists of all the men available for service in the army of reserves and the militia have been called for. The dock-yard departments have been officially notified to hold themselves in readiness to supply extra stores for the military and naval service. The Army and Navy Gazette blames the Minor agency for fomenting war news rumors. It charges them with having circulated "yarns" about the alleged hurried calling out of ships, in which stories very often, the ships were actually on duty at foreign stations.

IRELAND PREPARING TO AID RUSSIA. The military garrisons of Ireland will be maintained in full strength and may be increased from the reserves. The agents of Irish organizations have approached the Russian embassy in Paris with offers of assistance in case war occurs between Russia and England. These agents propose to form a rising in Ireland while England is engaged in Afghanistan and to fit out privateers in America to prey upon British commerce. All they ask is that Russia shall furnish the Irish allies the means to carry out their part of the bargain, and they offer to work as cheaply as possible.

TURKEY SEEKING AN ALLIANCE.

The overtures of Turkey for an alliance with Russia are still under consideration. Diplomatic advices from Athens and Constantinople concern the corroboration of the truth of the report that secret negotiations have been for some time in progress with Austria, Greece and Russia for new territorial arrangement with Turkey. Under this, Russia is to obtain the annexation of East Roumelia, to Bulgaria, with an extension of the principality of the East to Rumelia and the Aegean sea; Greece is to get that part of Macedonia with a frontier line drawn along the Secos and Helicon rivers to the mouth of the latter in the Gulf of Salonica; Austria is to obtain a new frontier along the river Sirmion to the Aegean sea, the center of the Austrian territory, to be the port of Salonica. Russia also asks to be accorded the right to occupy the ports on the Black sea, at the entrance to the Bosphorus. The knowledge of the fact that these negotiations are pending has increased the chances in favor of the consummation of an Anglo-Turkish alliance. The "peace-at-any-price" members of the commons are circulating a petition to Premier Gladstone, urging him to secure the submission of the Afghan dispute to arbitration. The petition is not getting any names except those of the extreme radicals.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN.

Fear of Russian Rule.

RAWUL-PINDEE, HINDOSTAN, March 28.—Theizam of Rawul-Pin-

dee writes, concerning the threatened Russian invasion, that the Indian people consider that Russian rule means a despotism, corruption of justice, tyranny and oppression. Russia may introduce civilization in Khiva and Bokhara, but in India her rule means retrogression.

The Question Left to Russia to Decide.

LONDON, March 28.—The Times concurs with the News in the impression that Earl Granville's disposal of the Russian matter was a disingenuous plea for Afghan occupation of Penjdeh, and justified Russia in advancing upon the debatable point. The question of peace or war rests more with Russia than with England. To desert the ameer would be to make Russia a present of his alliance and be heretofore compelled to fight both. The Times sincerely regrets that the Russian movements, daily increasing the chances of a rupture. The immediate necessity of the moment is that Russia shall understand that England is thoroughly in earnest.

The Parisians Alarmed.

The Times' Paris correspondent writes that the Paris people are alarmed at the idea of war, which they know would be disastrous to their loan, which would only be possible at ruinous rates. The Russians in Paris admit that England cannot recede, while with Russia it is only a question of ambition. All the powers have instructed their ambassadors at St. Petersburg and London to urge moderation and mutual concessions. The ambassadors state that Russia and England are really anxious for the preservation of peace.

Russia Preparing for War.

VIENNA, March 28.—Advices from Russia state that preparations are making for war and that silence is imposed on the Russian newspapers.

Is Russia Willing to Arbitrate?

The Daily News says that the statement in the Globe of yesterday that Earl Granville had proposed to Russia that both the Afghans and Russians should retire from the disputed territory while negotiations were in progress, is untrue. The News says there are no specific points now at issue in regard to the advance of the outposts. The question now is whether Russia is willing to submit the frontier question to the decision of a joint commission.

Increasing the Afghan Forces.

TEHERAN, PERSIA, March 28.—On the return of the amir of Afghanistan to Cabul, he will convene the council and ask the notables to agree to increase the Afghan army.

Russia Massing Her Troops.

LONDON, March 28.—The Times learns that the Russian government has ordered 50,000 troops to be massed at Baku on the Caspian sea, and has instructed the governor of the Caucasian provinces to go to St. Petersburg for consultation.

The steamship Arizona has been taken by the English government with the option of purchase. The America will be filled with guns, but for the present will remain at the disposal of the owners. The government expects to secure the steamships Oregon and Alaska. These measures have been taken because Russia has made overtures to the English steamship companies for the purchase of fast steamers.

The Reinforcements for India.

LONDON, March 28.—The request for reinforcements by Lord Dufferin, viceroy of India, states that if war be declared India requires twenty-three regiments of infantry, three regiments of cavalry, two batteries of field artillery and eighteen regiments of horse artillery to be dispatched to India forthwith. The mobilization committee and the transport department are busily engaged arranging to collect and forward these troops. Orders have been sent to the Mediterranean stations to have all the magazines overhauled and see that the ammunition on hand is up to the normal standard and quality and prepare all the gunboats and torpedo vessels at the stations for sea.

From the Soudan to India.

It is believed that 5000 Turkish troops will be sent to Suakin as soon as Gen. Graham has succeeded in crushing Osman Digma. This will enable England to withdraw the Guards from the Soudan and send them to India.

The Kanakas Alarmed.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., March 28.—Private dispatches from Victoria, British Columbia, state that considerable alarm prevails over the unprotected situation of that province. The failure of Great Britain to provide for the safety of her dockyard and coaling station creates much comment. There is only one ship at that station, and the Russian fleet is reported to be only eighteen days' sail from Victoria.

Ordered to Russia.

PARIS, March 28.—A number of Russian officers, whose presence in Paris has long been socially conspicuous, have suddenly left France. It is rumored that their departure was occasioned by the receipt of strict orders from St. Petersburg to immediately join their regiments.

IN PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, March 28.—In the house of commons last night the Egyptian financial agreement was adopted by a vote of 394 to 246.

In the house of lords Earl Granville stated that the Afghans had occupied Penjdeh before Sir Peter Lumsden had received instructions. Replying to the marquis of Salisbury Earl Granville said that there was nothing unstatesmanlike in meeting France half way to relieve Egypt of an incubus and England of a millstone around her neck.

THE SOUDAN.

OSMAN DIGMA'S STRENGTH. SUAKIM, March 28.—A deserter from Osman Digma's camp states that 20,000 men are entrenched at Tamai.

A rumor prevails here this afternoon that Osman Digma desires to surrender, but upon what terms is not stated.

An American With the Rebels.

CAIRO, March 28.—The Egyptian

government has been informed that "an American Irishman" name not known, started from Chicago January last to assist the Sudanese in their war against the British troops. He sailed from New York in January and went from France to Ceylon where he remained some time and had several long interviews with Arabi Pasha, the exiled leader of the Egyptian uprising of 1882. He obtained credentials from Arabi commending him to El Mahdi and his followers and he has now made his way to the camp of Osman Digma near Suakin.

A HAPPY SELECTION.

PARIS, March 28.—Gaulois, referring to the appointment of Gov. McLane as American minister to France, says it is the best possible selection that could have been made.

AUSTIN MELEE.

Tobias Mitchell Stabbed by Alex Sampson. Special.

AUSTIN, TEX., March 28.—Late last night a difficulty occurred between Alex Sampson, calendar clerk of the senate, and Tobias Mitchell, correspondent of the Globe-Democrat, formerly manager of the Houston Post, in which the latter was seriously stabbed.

Sampson was arrested this evening on a charge of attempt to murder, and, on waiving examination, he was released on \$500 bond. Mitchell is pronounced, by his physician, out of danger.

THE HALL TRAGEDY.

No Further Developments Regarding the Shooting Affray. Special.

CELEBRINE, TEX., March 28.—The preliminary examination of Vincent Wither, who killed Charles F. Hall, on Thursday, did not come off to-day. Wither yesterday employed Smith & Clark and Col. M. A. Oatis to defend him. On the advice of his attorneys, he waived examination and the case will go before the grand jury. County Attorney English agreed to his giving bond, and it was fixed at \$3000, which was given to-day. There are no developments since the particulars reported yesterday. The house where the killing occurred was a quarter of a mile from any other house, and no one except Wither and Hall were in the vicinity. Wither's statement, therefore, seems at present to be the only evidence. He says he fired the fatal shot in defending himself. After the killing he informed some of the neighbors of what he had done. On investigation they found Hall's body doubled up behind the stove. The charge of shot was No. 7 bird shot and the wall was splattered with blood, showing that the shooting was at close quarters.

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES.

Osman Digma's loss during all the engagements in the Soudan the past week is estimated at 4000 men.

F. S. Winston, president of the Mutual Life Insurance company of New York, died at Philadelphia yesterday.

D. W. Caldwell was appointed receiver of the New York, Chicago & St. Louis, or the Nickel Plate railroad, yesterday.

In the joint assembly of the Illinois legislature yesterday eleven votes were cast for Morrison received ten votes and Logan one.

On the 25th inst, a treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, was formally signed at San Salvador by the governments of San Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Jefferson Davis is suffering from a return of his rheumatism, complicated with the breaking out of his old wound, which he received in Mexico thirty-eight years ago.

City Treasurer Crawford of Oswego, N. Y., has been missing since Friday morning. An investigation of his books shows a shortage of over \$23,000. Speculation was the cause.

Information has been received at Washington to the effect that a movement is on foot to overthrow the government of Honduras and to form an alliance of the people of that country with the people of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and San Salvador against Gen. Barrios.

A Fire at Denison.

DENISON, TEX., March 28.—About 4 o'clock this evening the new two-story frame dwelling of J. T. Simmons on Houston avenue, was discovered to be on fire. The building was a total loss.

EVERY first-class dealer sells Opera Pull Cigarettes. Will not stick to the lips.

To Contractors.

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of J. J. Kane, architect, to noon on Monday, April 8, for the erection of a pavilion and skating rink at the north end of the Rose-dale street railway. Plans and specifications to be seen at the office of J. J. Kane. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

Prof. Harris, eminent oculist optician from New York will soon be at the Pickwick.

Don't Fail to See

The Fort Worth Grocer Co. before selling your eggs; 20,000 dozen wanted.

All the juvenile base ball clubs of the city are requested to meet at the Driving park this evening at 2:30 sharp, for the purpose of organizing for the summer sport at this popular place. Let all be on hand without fail. The association have kindly tendered us the use of their grounds in front of the grand stand for this purpose.

Send Your Orders

For choice meats, roasts, chops, veal cutlets, tenderloin steaks, porterhouse steaks, sausage, etc., to the base market of the city, 1013 Main street. Kemper Bros will serve you promptly and deliver all meats in due time.

ATTEMPTED BLACKMAIL.

Continued from First Page.

pointed the spectators who were expecting something lively.

Mr. Woods of Kaufman, introduced immediately, a resolution for an investigating committee, and he was with Messrs. Lusk and Armstrong appointed to inquire into the charges against Mr. Tryon. They were in session all the evening with closed doors, and finally brought in a report stating that they

FOUND THE ACCUSED GUILTY of attempting to blackmail S. S. Floyd & Co. of Galveston and recommended that he be dismissed from the service of the house as committee clerk.

The senate committee appointed to investigate the charges against Sampson admitted the reporters. The defendant, when confronted with his letter, frankly owned up to it, but claimed that he acted in the whole matter simply as a friend of the Floyds. He said that he was not to receive one cent of money and that his first action in the matter was instigated by a letter from Mr. Floyd, asking him as a friend to do all he could against the bill. This letter, which Mr. Floyd admitted writing, he showed to Tryon and that led to the proposition of the latter to kill the bill. Tryon was brought before the committee and stoutly denied all criminal

KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER. However, when closely pressed he refused to answer certain questions, the tendency of which were to criminate himself. Tankersley was also brought before the committee and indignantly denied all knowledge of the transaction. He thought that Messrs. Floyd and Fisher should have exposed the thing a month ago, when his name had been bandied around in such a manner. The following is Sampson's letter to Mr. Floyd, outlining the scheme, which will be found rare reading:

SAMPSON'S LETTER.

AUSTIN, TEX., Feb. 8, 1885.

To S. S. Floyd, Galveston, Texas. [Answer immediately; confidential.] DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 31 inst. was duly received and its contents noted. In reply I would state that if the Tankersley bill should pass the house and come to the senate I will do all in my power for you, for I feel under many obligations to you for many past favors. I would make this suggestion to you: Mr. J. M. Tryon, clerk of the judiciary committee to whom the bill was referred, assures me that if the men engaged in the future business in the state will pay him \$1000, he will prevent the passage of any law hostile to their interests by this legislature. Between us, he can pigeon-hole the bill, and it will never see daylight again if the introducer is quieted, all of which I believe he can do. He says he does not want a cent until the legislature adjourns, and if he does not accomplish what you desire, why, he does not want a cent. We were asked for nothing I think it would be well to let him have the money, if you can raise the money from the men who are interested in this matter. If you desire to try our services, write me a letter saying what you will do in the matter, and I can get Tryon to work it. If you do not wish his service, let the matter rest where it is, and I will do all I can. If you should raise the amount by subscription, do not let any one now you intend working this thing, but simply assure them that their money will be refunded or you if you do not succeed in suppressing the present or any other law that may be introduced in either house of the legislature. I will hear from you right away. Yours truly,

The statement of Mr. Cullen, the friend of Mr. Floyd, which was read by Mr. Fisher will be found equally interesting. It runs as follows:

ANOTHER PAPER.

AUSTIN, TEX., Feb. 26.

I was present to-day noon at an interview between S. S. Floyd and A. Sampson and J. M. Tryon. The latter is clerk of the committee on judiciary. The interview took place in one of the committee rooms at the state capitol. There were present S. S. Floyd, A. Sampson, J. M. Tryon and myself. The subject under controversy was a certain bill introduced by one Tankersley of H. and relating to futures and bucket shops. The object of meeting Mr. Tryon in person was to ascertain from him the fact as to whether he would be willing to sell said bucket shop bill. Mr. Tryon was brought in by Mr. Sampson, and introduced to Mr. Floyd and myself. He said:

"I am here, I appear before you in a very bad light, and if you can't see it I can feel myself ugly." In substance, Tryon offered for the sum of \$500, to be paid him by Mr. Floyd, to pigeon-hole said bill and then kill it for the session. Mr. Tryon said he could control Tankersley; also that he had a good friend, Tankersley, the int owner of said bill, a fine gold watch and chain, and had thus sold him if from pressing the passage of said bill. Tryon and Sampson said that for \$1000 they would guarantee the killing of the bill, \$500 of which was to be paid in cash to-day by Mr. Floyd to him. Mr. Floyd told Mr. Sampson he would consider the matter. There are other minor points about the conversation which I can recall if necessary.

The expulsion of Sampson was recommended and immediately followed by an unanimous vote. The affair created the greatest sensation that has occurred in Austin for years and is said to be the most disgraceful that has characterized legislative proceedings since the notorious era of corruption and bribery that distinguished the Twelfth legislature. Tryon is from Houston and has high social connections. He has thrice held the office of city assessor and collector and was once cashier in a leading bank. He inherited a large fortune which report says has been wasted by dissipation.

DENTON.

The Public Mind Agitated Over the Local-Option Election. Special.

DENTON, TEX., March 28.—Jerome Haskins, city secretary, died this morning of pneumonia at 1:30 o'clock at his residence on Elm street. The funeral took place at the Odd Fellows' cemetery. The fire department of which he was a member, went in full uniform to pay the last tribute of respect to their deceased brother. He leaves a wife, daughter and little boy, who have the sympathies of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

After hearing much discussion pro and con on the local option contest the commissioners' court this morning decided to open and count the vote, the result being as before reported, a majority of 21 for prohibition. It is understood that the next step to be taken by the opponents of local option, will be to sue out an injunction restraining the court from publishing a declaration of the result of the vote. Public opinion is very much divided as to the final outcome of this contest.

Don't Fail to See

The Fort Worth Grocer Co. before selling your eggs; 20,000 dozen wanted.

Do You Want It?

The \$3000 bed room suit at Fakes & Co.'s will be given to some one who has bought goods to the amount of \$50 at one purchase. Do you want it?

PRONOUNCED BARGAINS

NEW SPRING GOODS

Randall & Chambers Company.

Every Department is replete with the Season's Attractions

OUR DRESS GOODS and SILK DEPARTMENTS

Are specially worth the attention of close buyers. For street wear we show a line

Light Weight Woolen Dress Fabrics

In a variety of shades at a price that will make them immensely popular.

Be sure to price our

WHITE GOODS

You will find no better stock of

MATCH EMBROIDERIES

Than we are showing in

Colored and White Hamburgs, Nainsook and Swiss

WE OFFER A BIG DRIVE IN HOSIERY.

Ladies' Full Finished Hose in all Colors, 40c.

RANDALL & CHAMBERS

TO NEWSPAPER PROPRIETORS

WE HAVE FOR DISPOSAL A QUANTITY OF

Printer's Ink

IN KEGS OF 50 POUNDS FOR SLOW PRESSES. ALSO A FEW

BARRELS OF

MORRILL'S SUPERB INK

ALL AT

GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

GEO. B. LOVING,

FORT WORTH, - - TEXAS

WEATHERFORD.

Preparations for Laying the Corner Stone of the New Court House.

Special.

WEATHERFORD, TEX., March 28.—

Capt. I. N. Roach, attorney at law, received a letter from his old home in Tennessee yesterday, stating that his aged mother had recently died.

Our new court-house is being pushed rapidly upward. Great preparations are making by the different orders for a generous turnout on the day that the corner-stone is to be laid. The block and ladder boys and engine company No. 1 will be out in full force. Col. M. R. Buster, mayor of our little city, will be, as your reporter understands, master of ceremonies on that occasion.

Judge A. T. Watts is spending his holiday at home with his family.

Mr. Ed Oliver and lady and Mr. J. W. Stephens and lady returned from a visit to the exposition this week.

The third quarterly conference is being held at the Methodist church in this city.

Turner & McClure have just received a fresh shipment of rye flour.

Oleate of Sodium.

The above name indicates an article of great rarity and something new, when in fact it is as old as the hills, and one of the most common compounds extant, and is freely used by even the kings, queens, lords, presidents, and in fact, everybody throughout the land. The most noted actresses now before the foot-lights attest of its great qualities and usefulness. Notwithstanding the common use of this preparation, but few know it by the above name, and neither are they aware of the bargains to be had in this article, "soap," until they have called at either of Wells' drug-stores and examined his large and well assorted stock.

Clothing.

Dahlman Bros' stock of spring clothing surpasses anything yet shown in the city.

For You.

A purchase amounting to \$50 of Fakes & Co. entitles you to a chance in the \$3000 bed-room suit. All goods sold at bottom rates, either for cash or on the installment plan.

Fast Time, 1st-Class Express Sure Connections.

See that your ticket reads via the Pacific railway. For Maps, Time Tables, Rates and all required information call on or address any of the following:

R. F. Egan, Passenger Agent, Fort Worth, Texas. Pass. & Ticket Agent, W. H. Smith & Co., Gen. Traffic Manager, Chicago, Ill.

El Paso to St. Louis